

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
December 15, 2004

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2004, in the City of Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, California. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Tim Brady, Patti Ingram (Alt.), Russ Steele, Peter Van Zant, Conley Weaver

Members Absent: Josh Susman, Robin Sutherland

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Vice-Chairman Steele convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:32 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Financial Reports:

- A. October and November 2004
- B. Update of the Regional Surface Transportation Program Balances
- C. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program Annual Report for FY 2003/04

Executive Director Landon stated the RTMF Program revenues at the end of FY 2003/04 are on target. There was no discussion.

2. Correspondence:

- D. Memorandum on the "Rescue Transportation" proposal - This memorandum provides a summary of the problems that the Rescue Transportation proposal is trying to address and is for consideration as a constitutional amendment on the November 2006 statewide ballot. The NCTC is asked to comment on the appropriateness and viability of each of the four major components.

Executive Director Landon reported the Rescue Transportation Coalition is soliciting comments from transportation agencies throughout the State of California in an effort to revitalize and protect transportation funding. The Commission dialogued extensively on the four items and Executive Director Landon will send a letter to the Coalition summarizing NCTC's views. The letter will include the following points:

- It is desirable to provide additional certainty or stability to the Caltrans budgeting process, however transferring budget approval authority to an appointed body is not supported.

- Support the empowering of Caltrans to use a broader range of delivery mechanisms, including public/private partnerships and more “project oriented” management.
- Support the concept of utilizing biennial budgets to provide more stability to the Caltrans budgeting process, but believe it would be problematic to give CTC authority to adjust transportation revenues.

E. *Los Angeles Times* - Article entitled, "DMV Chief Backs Tax by Mile".

Commissioner Brady expressed the opinion that a “tax by mile” proposition will diminish support for gas tax as a means of generating transportation revenues. Vice-Chairman Steele suggested some ways to make the proposal more palatable and noted that something has to be done, since there are more vehicles on the road, but less revenues due to more fuel-efficient vehicles. He feels raising the existing fuel taxes is not the solution. He mentioned a test of the “tax by mile” mechanism that is being conducted in Oregon.

3. Executive Director's Report

3.1 Crestview Intersection/Interchange Project Development

Commissioner Van Zant questioned if the developers are reimbursing Executive Director Landon’s time spent on this project. Mr. Van Zant stated many agencies are going to “fee-for-services” for private projects. Mr. Landon responded he is not being reimbursed for time spent on this project. Mr. Landon noted that he will include the cost of NCTC administrative staff time into future projects. Vice-Chairman Steele suggested Mr. Landon create a rate schedule for charging his time for future projects in order to reimburse the public funds spent on private projects.

3.4 Transit/Paratransit Governance Study

Executive Director Landon stated the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met December 13th. The Transit Services Commission will review the draft report in February 2005. The project schedule has been adjusted to allow for a full review and comment by the stakeholders and the cities and county.

4. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager for Nevada County.

Tom Brannon gave a brief summary of project activity that has occurred since the last NCTC meeting. Those include:

- *Truckee Bypass and Bear River to Wolf/Combie Road Widening* – Both jobs have completed construction and final claims and bills are being included in a final cost breakdown. There will be negotiations with the Town of Truckee over some of the costs with the ramps that were added to the job.
- *Grass Valley Ramp/Frontage Road Improvements* – Several meetings have been held between Caltrans and NCTC staff and engineers to discuss how the work will be programmed and delivered around the Idaho-Maryland and Railroad Avenue intersections.
- *SR 49 Drainage/Embankment Repair* – This was a Minor B Project to repair a small embankment failure, but the project is on hold until January 2005 due to a lack of money.

Executive Director Landon mentioned how this is indicative of the severity of the State funding problem. A project of this size normally would have been funded without even a mention. The State is so tight on cash, nothing is being funded.

- *Truckee SR 89 Roundabout Project* – The award of the job is scheduled for December 16th, being contingent on action taken later in this meeting regarding Item 10, Allocation Request from the Town of Truckee for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds.
- *Truckee Bypass Mitigation Planting Project* – The job has been delivered and Caltrans is waiting for California Transportation Commission allocation of funding for the project. Again, since money is so tight only safety-related projects are being funded.
- *SR 49 Left Turn Lane at Newtown Road* – Construction has been completed.
- *SR 20 Safety Realignment and Widening* – This project extends from the Yuba County line to the top of Pet Hill. The Project Approval report and Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) was signed on November 17, 2004. The project now moves into final design and delivery. Right-of-way (R/W) certification and advertising the job is scheduled for January 2006. Due to cost increases in asphalt, concrete, and steel, a program change request is needed for an additional \$4.2 million for this safety job. Between 2001, when the study report was completed, and November 2004 when Caltrans completed the project report, prices have risen about 23% overall. This reduces the statewide funds, which is why Nevada County's Minor Projects and mitigation planting are not being funded.
- *Dorsey Drive Interchange* – A meeting is planned for December 20th with Caltrans Design, Mr. Brannon, NCTC staff, Nevada County staff, and Grass Valley staff, to review and discuss the scope of work and estimate for the two alternatives, which are either a signaled intersection or a roundabout for the ramp intersections.

Commissioner Brady wanted to raise a flag about the eastbound turnoff to Dorsey that fronts the northern piece of property where the old mine is. He stated that there is toxic waste on the property, which is why the land has not been developed. Mr. Brady questioned if Caltrans has budgeted for cleanup of that property. Mr. Brannon stated Caltrans has started their investigation of hazardous waste, but only within the property currently owned by Caltrans and Nevada County. He reported once the hazardous waste investigation is complete, Caltrans would alter their design to the maximum extent possible to get away from that problem and not incur excessive costs. Executive Director Landon added that the Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report indicates a survey was done on the property and the R/W required is minimal. NCTC staff will keep track of the progress on this issue. Concerns were also expressed regarding the lack of funds available to the projects in the current STIP and the 2006 STIP, which includes the Dorsey Drive project.

- *SR 49 Five Lane Widening Project From Combie Road to Grass Valley* – The Community Involvement Plan is in place through Ann Marie Robinson, with the first public meeting scheduled for February 2005 in south Nevada County and then a public meeting for the north part of the project. There are potential alternatives to completing PA/ED for the entire corridor. It was previously stated the entire corridor must pass PA/ED before any portion could be built. But now with the issue around lack of funding, Caltrans is investigating with the Federal Highways Administration and Fish and Game, if it is feasible for a specific project along the corridor to be cleared and constructed.

- *SR 49 Shoulder Widening* – As a safety project, it is assured of being funded. PA/ED are in final processing within Caltrans and will go into the advertise/award process to get it out for the 2005 construction season.
- *Town of Truckee SR 89 Dual Roundabouts just North of I-80* – Caltrans is working with developers on this proposed new project.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. Certificate of Appreciation for Service on the NCTC: DeVere Mautino. *Approved. Vice-Chairman Steele read and presented the certificate to Ms. Mautino.*
6. NCTC Minutes: October 20, 2004. *Commissioner Ingram abstained. Approved.*
7. NCTC Meeting Schedule for 2005: *Approved.*
8. FTA Section 5311 Program Regional Balance Sheet and 2004/05 FY Program of Projects: *Approved.*
9. Nevada County Transit Services Division Request NCTC's Approval of Certifications and Assurances for their 2003/04 FY FTA 5311 Grant Application Package in the Amount of \$134,308. This document attests that NCTC certifies and assures that the Nevada County Transit Services Division has met the requirements for applying for FTA 5311 grant funds. *Approved Resolution 04-33.*

Commissioner Van Zant made a motion to approve the consent items. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS:

10. Allocation Request from the Town of Truckee for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds: Through the adoption of Resolution 2004-49 on November 4, 2004, the Town of Truckee is requesting an allocation of RSTP funds in the amount of \$350,000 for the I-80/SR-89 Roundabout project.

Commissioner Brady moved to approve Resolution 04-34. Commissioner Van Zant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. DuPell Agreement:

Executive Director Landon explained this Agreement is to facilitate construction of a project that is included in the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee program. In December 2003, David DuPell, owner of the Big 1 Appliance store, processed an application with the City of Grass Valley to build a new facility on the north end of Sutton Way. The City placed a condition on him to construct the improvements needed at the Sutton Way/Brunswick Road intersection. The project is scheduled for construction in 2005, but Grass Valley was not going to be able to deliver the project within the schedule. Mr. Landon handed out to the Commission a drawing of this location with proposed improvements that he obtained the night before at the Grass Valley City Council Meeting. An agreement has been drawn up between the City of Grass Valley and Mr. DuPell whereby he will be reimbursed for the cost of the improvement above his share of the mitigation fee program. The City

of Grass Valley approved the Agreement December 14, 2004, with minor changes made to the reimbursement process.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve Resolution 04-35. Commissioner Van Zant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NONAGENDIZED QUESTION AND RESPONSE:

Commissioner Brady raised the question on the status and ownership of the Idaho-Maryland/Brunswick Road intersection project and the preferred alternative. John Rumsey, Senior Civil Engineer for the Nevada County Department of Transportation and Sanitation, responded this is a County project and is funded by County funds. He stated the design work will be done this winter and the project will be starting construction in the spring or summer of 2005.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alternate Commissioner Ingram reported on the reorganization of the City of Grass Valley Council and announced the new Mayor as Gerard Tassone, and Vice-Mayor as Mark Johnson. The NCTC commissioner will be decided at the January 11, 2005 meeting. Ms. Ingram was congratulated for her service as Grass Valley Mayor.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at 8:30 a.m., at the Grass Valley City Council Chambers.

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED:

12. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Employee Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director, Daniel B. Landon.

Vice-Chairman Steele stated he received a phone call from Commissioner Susman, who wants to contribute his comments but was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Susman requested the performance review be continued to the next NCTC meeting. The Commission chose to conduct a closed session this meeting to provide Commissioner Van Zant an opportunity to share his comments, since this is his last NCTC meeting. A second closed session will be held at the January 19, 2005 NCTC meeting. Vice-Chairman Steele adjourned the NCTC meeting at 9:40 a.m. and conducted a closed session with the Commissioners and Mr. Landon in attendance. Vice-Chairman Steele reconvened the NCTC meeting at 9:55 a.m. and announced there was no action to report.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Vice-Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Antoinette Perry, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission